

February 27, 1973

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, obviously, Mr. President, it's a little bit involved now. I would suggest that you adopt my amendments along with the rest of them and bearing in mind that we're not too familiar with any of the amendments or really the bill, and then have the Clerk have someone revise the bill with the amendments so then we can look at the bill from a standpoint of intelligence in order to see what we want to do with the bill, if anything. First, let me say, I think these things are grossly exaggerated. They do exist, of course, in some isolated cases, but it's not a general thing that goes on day after day and place after place. Insofar as I am concerned, if the Commission wants to do this, I want them to do it without the benefit of the County Attorney, the Attorney General, anybody else. Let the Commission stand on it's own feet and that's the purpose of my amendment so I move the question to adopt the amendment and then have somebody rewrite it and let's see what we got.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, would Senator Carpenter yield to a question?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Certainly.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Senator Carpenter, I have not read your amendments, but from the statement that you just made, I felt that you said that the County Attornies would be completely taken out of this, now is that correct?

SENATOR CARPENTER: That's my idea. Let them do their own enforcing. They got their own commission, let them make their own action and take the responsibility. All we're doing, we're just gradually enclosing this whole field. Now we want the County Attorney and the Attorney General. Pretty soon we'll want the National Guard and I think we've gone too far. I think we have to stabilize this stuff.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, I was in the Legislature and you were too, when this law was put into effect and as I recall, we put it in there, County Attornies could prosecute these cases because out in the state in some of the sparsely settled areas there might be problems come up and we would not want to go clear to Omaha or Lincoln to get the Commission to drive way out there and let the County Attorney prosecute and therefore, I, I would be opposed to this if you're not permitting the people in the sparsely settled areas to go to their County Attorney and ask for privilege of not being discriminated against.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, why don't they, they've got a commission, they got their own lawyers, they got their own mud, why don't they file the complaints themselves? That's what the commission is for.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, I thought the people who felt they were being discriminated against --

SENATOR CARPENTER: What about the people who think they're being harassed? This is getting to be a one-sided question. All the poor and all the people who are pregnant and all the people, irrespective of color, race or religion are all being imposed upon and the other 98% of the people don't have any representation most of the time. Insofar as I'm concerned, I propose to give them at least some.

SENATOR WHITNEY: But in this case, the County Attornies have the right to make a decision as to whether those people who